

Man Pinned In After US 421 Wreck

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A Wilkesboro man was hospitalized after being pinned in the wreckage of his SUV traveling toward Boone Saturday morning in a wintry mix of weather. The 10:30am crash occurred as 53-year old Ronald Warren Phinney started skidding in a slushy patch on the highway as he approached Hardin Road, but after thinking he had regained control, his next acceleration caused his 2000 Ford Explorer to skid off of the road to his right where it skidded sideways, striking the ditch, the impact causing the SUV to flip up on the embankment. With Phinney pinned in the wreckage, Watauga Rescue joined Deep Gap First Responders and Watauga Medics on the scene, having to cut the roof off of the SUV to reach the man. He was rushed to Watauga Medical Center for treatment of internal injuries and possible rib fractures, according to Trooper Alexander who said that injuries did not appear life threatening, but that with the side impact, air bags did not deploy to offer more protection. Alexander cited Ronald Warren Phinney for Exceeding a Safe Speed for Conditions and said his vehicle was totaled by both the crash and the roof removal of the rescue effort.